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MEMORANDUM FOR: CHIEF, POLITICAL AND PSYCHOLOGICAL WARFARE  
SUBJECT: SE Division Report to the Psychological  
Strategy Board  
REFERENCE: GAW No. 237-1, dated 12 May 1953

Transmitted herewith are the SE Asia Division and Country  
Branch reports for the Psychological Strategy Board as requested  
in the referenced notice.

[ Acting Chief, SE ]

Attachments  
As stated,

SE/PP:BRM:brm  
5 June 1953

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~~PERIODIC REPORT TO THE PSYCHOLOGICAL STRATEGY BOARD~~

(1 Jan. 53 - 30 June 53)

THE BALKANS (Southeast Europe)

AREA SUMMARY

1. The primary Balkan target for Political and Psychological activities consists of the three satellite regimes in Albania, Bulgaria and Romania, respectively, with allied and supporting missions in Greece, Yugoslavia, and Trieste.

a. In accordance with pertinent NSC authorization and the approved country programs, which seek to maintain faith in eventual liberation, deter popular accommodation with Communism and encourage internal willingness to aid our agents in their efforts to develop multi-purpose underground nets, continuous propaganda campaigns were conducted during the period against Albania, Bulgaria and, to a lesser degree, Romania. The PW effort took the form of regular clandestine radio broadcasts to Albania and Bulgaria, periodic diversionary leaflet drops over Albania, one large-scale drop over Romania and the printing of leaflets for the three satellites for mid-summer dissemination. Moreover, efforts are in progress to enhance the indigenous appeal of the propaganda product, whether this is in the form of radio programming, leaflets or handbills. Past experience has demonstrated, however, that covert PW NSC 22, while serving to foster hope and rally the anti-regime sentiments of the people, requires concrete evidence of Communist weakness and resistance activity, as well as tangible signs of growing Western strength in the area, to be fully effective.

b. Major emphasis was placed during the period on the development of well-trained penetration teams, whose operational season began as early as April. These teams have as their mission the consolidation of valuable gains made in Albania in 1952, the expansion of rudimentary assets in Bulgaria, and the initiation of activities in Romania. At present, Albania represents the most promising and successful area to date. Our Bulgarian operations continue to be largely exploratory in nature due to intensified security controls and the lack of high-calibre agent material. Romanian operations are hampered by the isolation of the country and the security problems encountered within it, as well as by a continuing shortage of agent personnel. Penetrations of Romania are stringently limited by the necessity of long overflights over hostile territory and/or the degree of cooperation that may eventually be forthcoming from the Yugoslavs.

2. Developments within the Soviet monolith during the period have contributed to a favorable climate for both PW and penetration activities during the present season. Considerable disarray became manifest within the satellites at the time of Stalin's death and in the subsequent confusion that resulted. At the same time Soviet/Communist propaganda does not appear to have gained in persuasiveness. Moreover, a major international development in the area was the signing of the Balkan Pact between Yugoslavia, Greece and Turkey, together with related indications of closer Yugoslav-Western relations despite rancorous outbreaks between Italy and Belgrade. Continued cordial relations between Greece and the United States have greatly facilitated working arrangements between the two services in support of the U.S. mission against the Soviet orbit.

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ALBANIA.

1. Developments both within the Soviet system and on the Albanian periphery have placed increased strains on the Communist regime in Tirana. The uncertainties arising from the death of Stalin and the rapprochement between Greece and Yugoslavia which was cemented in the Balkan Pact have provided a fertile terrain for psychological exploitation by our PW media. Internally, Albania continues to exist with a deficit economy that causes great hardship to the people and requires continuing economic subsidies from the Soviet orbit. The relative attraction of Yugoslav support appears to have grown among refugee political leaders and possibly within the country as well. In general, the climate for resistance activity of an organisational nature appears favorable.

2. PW efforts consisted of regular broadcasts and the dissemination of some printed materials that have sought to exploit the existing situation, with particular emphasis on the Balkan Pact and the vulnerability of satellite leaders under the new Kremlin regime. A sizeable number of leaflets, including miniature editions of the newspaper published by the National Committee for Free Albania in Rome, were dropped in conjunction with agent resupply missions. Efforts continued to expand the number of internal contacts presently available and to prepare for the 1953 operational season.

3. Our Albanian activities are coordinated policy-wise with the Department of State and the British I.S. An exploratory exchange of views between representatives of the Washington Headquarters and the Yugoslav UDB was held in Yugoslavia for the purpose of determining the extent to which a cooperative effort against the present Albanian regime may be feasible. A new propaganda guidance for the use of RFE was submitted to NCFE.

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